

Marauder Memo - May 2, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

We are thankful for the great work of our students and staff to complete ILearn testing last week. This week we will host virtual learners in the evening for their testing, while we continue make-up exams for in-person learners who missed last week's tests.

This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week. Our Student Council has a week of celebratory festivities planned for our faculty and staff. I encourage you to send a note of thanks to those teachers who have positively impacted your student in this most challenging of years.

We also start the week with excitement, following the MVMS golf team's dominating County Championship performance on Saturday, and the fact that in-person 8th graders will visit MVHS in Teams this week. Virtual Students will have that opportunity this summer.

Here are some of the key reminders for the week ahead:

ILearn Virtual Student Testing - Emails have been sent via Parent Square to all Virtual Parents regarding ILearn testing. Virtual Students will test In-Person at school May 3rd, 4th, and 6th from 1pm to 5pm. Good luck to our Learners!

Covid Protocol reminders (IMPORTANT REMINDER) - While we are in the "seasonal allergies" period of any year, it is important that we all follow the guidelines below regarding symptoms. COVID symptoms can be similar to those of common allergies, so please follow the advice below, allowing the *symptoms* to govern decision-making. Please err on the side of caution to govern your decision-making regarding whether or not to send your student to school. We continue to have cases impacting our school and, accordingly, remain vigilant regarding our Covid and Mask Protocols. Mt. Vernon Community Schools will continue with our approaches, which have been highly effective, throughout the remainder of this academic year. Thank you for adhering to the following safeguards :

- If your child has COVID-19 like symptoms, please keep your student home from school and consider keeping siblings home too.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please inform your school's health clinic immediately. If you learn that your child has tested positive outside of school hours, please immediately contact the school principal or the corporation nurse at tracy.furnas@mvcsc.k12.in.us or christy.bastin@mvcsc.k12.in.us.
- If anyone in your household is being tested for COVID-19, please keep ALL students at home from school until results are received.

- When your child stays home, or your virtual student is unable to do schoolwork, please call the school's attendance office.
- If there is any doubt whether a student should attend school, please keep everyone home and call our health clinic for guidance and/or email denise.floyd@mvcsc.k12.in.us.
- [Indiana State COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

For reference, please see the [Covid-19 Screening Checklist](#) and the MVCSC Health & Safety Plan on our www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/COVID webpage.

MVMS Talent Show - Permission forms are available now for our annual Talent Show, which is to be held May 27 in the high school auditorium. Students should see Mr. Falkenberg in room C311 or stop by the office for more information.

Color Guard - The MVHS Color Guard is offering workshops to any interested 7th and 8th grader interested in joining the team. Workouts will take place each Tuesday evening in May at the High School Cafeteria from 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Students should wear comfortable clothing.

MVMS Kitchen Table - The MVMS Kitchen Table (aka Homework Help Club) will no longer meet for the remainder of the school year.

8th Graders and 4th Nine Weeks - We continue to make plans - which will be Covid-dependent, of course - for the end of the school year. Most of that attention is on celebrating 8th Graders with as "normal" a conclusion to their experience as possible. An after-school dance, field day, staff-vs-students basketball game, and Promotion Ceremony are all in the works for the last weeks of school. *Dates for these events will be determined this week - please see next week's Marauder Memo for details.*

For students to participate in the Promotion Ceremony, they will need to have passed the same number of classes for them to be academically eligible for high school activities (no more than one failing grade). We currently have over 50 students whose grades after the 3rd Nine Weeks have them currently ineligible to participate in these end-of-year festivities. We have begun to meet individually with them, not only emphasizing this policy but also indicating our intense desire to see them succeed and qualify for these privileges. We are discussing strategies and motivators for them to do better. The overwhelming majority of young men and ladies with whom we've met indicate that effort - or the lack thereof - has been their personal downfall to this point. Again, we are seeking specific ways to improve that, and certainly ask your help in reigniting fires inside them to do their best and succeed.

I cannot emphasize this enough: we want to see ALL students do well and be able to participate in these end-of-year festivities. As emphasized in both Team Talks and these One-on-one

conversations, they know they must earn that privilege...and I certainly hope they feel and recognize our passion for them to turn it around and do better. As we finalize end of year plans, all of which are Covid-dependent, of course, we will communicate those with you.

MV Reads (from our Library Staff):

Current number of lost books with fines at MVMS: 283 books totaling \$4337.67

Parents, we continue to ask for your help. It is now April and we are still struggling to get our library books returned to the library or fines paid to purchase new books. As you are aware, once a student library book is more than 60 days overdue, it is considered lost and an email is sent each Monday to the parent/guardian. If the student returns the book, the lost fee will be deleted. We prefer to have our books back rather than be paid the lost book replacement fee because it saves us from ordering and processing new books and gets the books in the hands of the students who want them faster. So if your student knows where the book is, please have them return it ASAP. If a book is truly lost, please pay the price listed in the email on School Pay by going to this website:

<https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/LostDamaged-Library-Books/SctmWBH?p=yes>

OR send a check made out to your school and return to the library or front office. Please write the student's name and title of the book in the memo line. Thank you!

Out-of-District/Transfer Application Information 2021 - 2022 School Year:

All students who are currently attending a Mt. Vernon school and do not live within the school district boundaries are required to submit an application yearly to attend during the 2021-2022 school year:

Window 2 - Friday, May 7 at 5 p.m. through Monday, May 17 at 8 a.m.

Please complete a separate form for each student requesting to attend Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation that currently lives outside the school district or that anticipates moving out of district before the 2021-2022 school year begins. By completing this form you are entering the student into the out-of-district/transfer pool and requesting to attend Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation during the 2021-2022 school year. This does not guarantee enrollment, but priority will be given to current out-of-district students, their siblings/step siblings, and employees' children. All applicants will receive notice by June 18, 2021.

Please visit <https://www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/News/1508#sthash.Y4yX1Ex3.dpbs> to complete the online enrollment application.

Athletics - As we continue through the 4th Nine Weeks, please remember the MVMS Athletic Department reserves the right, at any time, to conduct grade checks on student athletes to determine the academic eligibility for an athletic competition or multiple athletic competitions.

Contest Attendance Policy - For all contests, home and away, this spring, guests are expected to sit with their household unit only. Anyone in attendance is required to wear a mask when unable to socially distance from anyone outside of their household unit. If host schools have more restrictive policies, please observe those in order to remain in attendance at their event.

Monday, May 3

8th Baseball @ New Pal 5:15
7th Softball @ New Pal 5:15
8th Softball vs New Pal 5:15
7th Baseball vs New Pal 5:15
Track & Field @ Pendleton 5:15
Golf @ Yorktown 4:30

Tuesday, May 4

8th Baseball vs Belzer 5:15
8th Softball @ Delta 6:00
Golf @ Greenfield 4:30

Wednesday, May 5

7th Baseball @ Lapel 5:15
7th Softball vs New Castle 5:15
8th Softball @ Eastern Hancock 5:15
Track & Field @ Eastern Hancock w/ Shenandoah

Thursday, May 6

7th Softball @ Shelbyville 5:30
Track & Field vs County @ Mt Vernon HS 5:30

Saturday, May 8

8th Softball @ Pendleton - Conference 9:00
Golf @ Delta - Conference - 1:00

MVMS PTO - Locker Shockers are Back! Do you want to surprise your student with a decorated locker to celebrate a birthday, athletic event, or just because? If so, place your order [HERE](#). Please note that a 2-weeks notice is required. Any questions may be directed to mtvernonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com

1st Day School Supplies - The MVMS PTO has partnered with 1st Day School Supplies so that you may shop for '21-22 school supplies from the comfort of home. All orders will be shipped directly to the school after the Summer break and a portion of proceeds is returned to the PTO. Use the link below to place your order.



[1st Day School Supplies](#)

Virtual Learners' Support - Mrs. Merica, our Virtual Support Teacher, continues to serve as a terrific resource for students struggling to maximize their online learning. If your student could benefit from tips to help with virtual learning, please contact her at jackie.merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us. Relatedly, the Google Meet times for full time virtual students to have collective learning opportunities with peers are:

6th Grade: Mondays

Integrity: 10:15-10:45

Firebirds: 11:00-11:30

Central Stars: 11:45-12:15

Odyssey: 1:00-1:30

7th grade: Wednesdays

Spirit: 11:45-12:15

Champions: 12:25-12:55

Victory: 1:45-2:15

8th grade: Fridays

Eagles: 10:30-11:00

All Stars: 11:15-11:45

Pride: 2:30-3:00

Short Term E-Learning - The pandemic is still upon us and we have, unfortunately, had some students contact traced in recent weeks. Students who have been asked by school Health Officials to be quarantined for a certain number of days need to still be completing their classroom assignments and meeting for class at their usual daily times. Short term e-learning students should check their email, Google Classroom, and Canvas daily (at minimum). Teachers will utilize these three platforms to communicate student work. It would also be helpful to have your student reach out to their teachers via email to verify assignments and remain as fully engaged in the learning process as possible.

Counseling Corner - Students or parents struggling with Pandemic-related challenges are encouraged to utilize The [Parent Guide to Resilience](#) from whytry.org. Remember also, you can follow our counselors for other advice and tips on Instagram [@mvms_counselors](#).

Tech Support and help needed - Please help us monitor Chromebook use and guide your students to take good care of their technology. Thank you. Also, Please remember that MVCSC partners with Ninestar Connect to provide 24-7 technology support to students and parents/guardians assisting their children. Please use the following contact information for help:

Technology Support Phone Number: 317-482-4112

Email: techsupport@mvcsc.k12.in.us

NineStar Connect will assist with the technology issue, and if needed, pass the request to the appropriate Mt. Vernon technology assistant to resolve the problem during school hours.

Additional information can be found on the [1:1 Technology Program webpage](#).

Attendance - If your student will be absent, please notify us via with one of these methods:

1. Call 317-485-3160 which is available 24/7.
2. Email brigitte.bussen@mvcsc.k12.in.us
3. Once students are at school, they should not be contacting a parent for pickup during the school day. This type of communication needs to proceed from the MVMS School Nurse or Office Staff directly to the Parent. Thank you.

Social Media and Platforms - You can follow MVMS via:

Twitter: @MtVernon_MS

Twitter for MVMS Sports: @MVMS_Sports

Instagram: @Mt.Vernon_MS

Facebook: MtVernonMiddleSchool

Skyward - Click [HERE](#)

MVMS News - Click [HERE](#)

MVMS Counselor Webpage - Click [HERE](#) *full of many resources for Students & Parents

MVCSC 20-21 School Calendar - Click [HERE](#)

20-21 MVMS Black & Gold Calendar (beginning 2/16/2021) Click [HERE](#)

Substitute Teachers - MVCSC continues to build its pool of Substitute teachers. With our return to the conventional schedule, we anticipate a need for more subs. Those who are interested and qualify can choose to serve in their building of choice (hint, hint, MVMS is a great and fun place to work!) and earn approximately \$85/day. For more information, click here: www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment/6 or schedule a meeting with Kelly Services at rebrand.ly/substitute.

I look forward to a great week of engagement with our students in the hallways, classrooms, and extracurricular activities. We all wish our Virtual Learners the best in their I-Learning testing. Thank you for your continued support of our educational efforts and, especially, those of your

students, in and out of the classroom. Let's all continue our work together to make it another Great Week to be a Marauder -

Mike Raters

Michael P. Raters

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160